

Message Text

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67

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 PC-10 USIA-15 IO-14 DODE-00

AGR-20 INT-08 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DRC-01 /174 W

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R 111120Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1797

INFO USMISSION EMBRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 0025

AFDROUGHT

AF/N FOR AMBASSADOR MURPHY

ROME FOR FODAG

PARIS FOR HELLMAN

EO 11652: NA

SUBJECT: MINHEALTH REVIEWS GIRM DROUGHT NEEDS FOR 74

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 0001 AND 1227 DEC 73

SUMMARY: MIMNHEALTH OULD BAH--GIRM DROUGHT RELIEF COORDINATOR--
REVIEWED RESULTS GIRM DECEMBER DROUGHT MEETINGS; SAID GRAIN
AND OTHER RELIEF NEEDS THIS YEAR WILL BE ON SAME MASSIVE
SCALE AS 1973. HE FEARS, HOWEVER, THAT DONORS WILL BE LESS
GENEROUS IN 1974 THAN IN 1973. END SUMMARY.

1. IN LENGTHY DISCUSSION TODAY WITH MINHEALTH, HE REVIEWED
FINDINGS DECEMBER GIRM DROUGHT MEETINGS (NOUAKCHOTT 1227),
NOTING PARTICULARLY THAT REGIONAL GOVERNORS ESTIMATED
EMERGENCY GRAIN NEEDS FOR 1974 AT SAME OR HIGHER LEVELS
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AS 1973. GIVEN POOR FALL HARVEST AND BLEAK PROSPECTS FOR

WINTER BOTTOM LAND HARVEST, MINISTER STANDS BY HIS ORIGINAL ESTIMATE 100,000-TON GRAIN SHORTFALL. TOTAL GRAIN HARVEST FOR 1973-74 NOT EXPECTED EXCEED 25,000 TONS IN MINISTER'S ESTIMATION, BUT HE WARNED MINRURAL DEVELOPMENT WAS EVEN MORE BEARISH AND PREDICTED HARVEST OF ONLY 18-20,000 TONS, OR LESS THAN 20 PERCENT OF NORMAL.

2. MINISTER STATED HE FEARED DONORS WOULD BE LESS GENEROUS THIS YEAR THAN IN 1973. HE NOTED ONLY TWO OF LAST YEAR'S GRAIN DONORS HAD MADE FIRM PLEDGES FOR 1974: US 10,000 TONS AND EEC/FED 10,000 TONS. HE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BY LACK OF RESPONSE FROM WFP. IN LIGHT OF SLOW DONOR RESPONSE, HE ADDED, GIRM MOVING IMMEDIATELY TO BUY UP TO 10,000 TONS SORGHUM COMMERCIALY.

3. SPEAKING OF THE MECHANICS OF DROUGHT RELIEF, THE MINISTER SAID TRANSPORT, GRAIN STORAGE AND LACK OF STAFF WOULD CONTINUE TO BE MAJOR PROBLEMS IN 1974. HE NOTED THAT NEARLY HALF OF 160 TRUCKS AT HIS DISPOSAL FOR GRAIN DISTRIBUTION WERE OUT OF COMMISSION BECAUSE OF UNAVAILABILITY SPARE PARTS. HE HAS ASKED FED TO PURCHASE 80 ADDITIONAL TWELVE-TON LORRIES OUT OF ITS 1974 DROUGHT RELIEF PROGRAM MONIES. HE IS ALSO SEEKING EXPATRIATE STAFF TO ASSIST HIM IN ADMINISTERING FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND OTHER DROUGHT RELIEF/REHABILITATION PROGRAMS. HE IS ANXIOUS TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION GRAIN STORAGE HANGERS PROMISED UNDER FEI TASK FORCE PROGRAM AND BY FED. SHURTLEFF

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